

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is in response to the Election/Restriction dated September 24, 2003. Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the Group 1 claims at this time, i.e., claims 1-11. All the remaining claims which were not already canceled have been canceled by way of this amendment. Applicants preserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the claims which have been canceled, e.g., the Group II claims.

Applicants note that the Examiner properly indicated in the Sept. 24, 2003 Office Action that claims 1-21, 23-26, 33-37, 42-47 and 49 were pending.

For the record, Applicants note that while reviewing the previous amendment they discovered a an obvious error in the Introduction included n the Remarks section of the previous amendment that they want to make of record. In the Introduction portion of the Remarks section of the previous amendment, dated June 30, 2003, Applicants stated:

Claims 1, 12, 22, 23, 42 and 49 have been canceled. Claims 27-32, 38-41 , and 48 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-21, 23-26, 33-37, 42-47 and 49 are now pending.

Applicants clearly miss stated the list of amended and canceled claims while the list of pending claims was accurate. In the previous office action claims 1, 2, 12, 42 and 48 were amended while claims 22, 27-32, 38-41 and 48 were canceled. The other portions of the previous

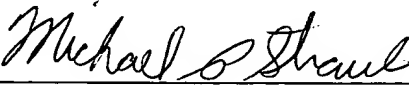
amendment, e.g., portions other than the introduction, including the listing of the claims were correct and make it clear that claims 1, 2, 12, 33, 42 and 49 were amended and that claims 22, 27-32, 38-41 and 48 were canceled. Since the Examiner has properly interpreted Applicants previous amendment and considered claim 1 as pending, Applicants have proceeded under the assumption that claims 1-21, 23-26, 33-37, 42-47 and 49 were pending at the time this amendment was filed with the current claims listing indicating changes from the claim listing found in the previous amendment.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicants request that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

October 16, 2003



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING under 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on **October 16, 2003** with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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